

**Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary
Sanctuary Advisory Council**

FINAL Key Meeting Outcomes

January 23, 2009

Casa Las Palmas, Santa Barbara, CA

Note: This document will be posted on line at <http://channelislands.noaa.gov/sac/minutes.html>. Audio recordings of this and other Council meetings are available upon request to michael.murray@noaa.gov.

Attendance: At peak, sixteen of the Council's twenty-one voting seats were present (see attached attendance roster). Five seats were absent for the day: California Resources Agency, California Coastal Commission, Minerals Management Service, Chumash Community, and Public-at-large #1. Public attendance varied from seven to nine people.

Administrative Business and Announcements

New members were announced and introduced: Kathleen Fitzgerald, Tourism member; Debra Herring, Non-consumptive recreation member; Perry Ferguson, Non-consumptive recreation alternate; Mark Steele, Research alternate; Capt. Richard McKenna, Business member. The following reappointed representatives were acknowledged: Linda Krop, Conservation member; Greg Helms, Conservation alternate; Bob Warner, Research member; Bruce Steele, Commercial fishing member; Phyllis Grifman, Public-at-large member; Eric Kett, Public-at-large member.

The draft key outcomes report from the November 14, 2008 meeting were adopted as final.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Chris Mobley highlighted several items in the Superintendent's Report (provided to all SAC members and the attending public, and available at <http://www.channelislands.noaa.gov/sac/super.html>).

Chris introduced Gay Larson, Director of Development at UCSB's Marine Science Institute. Gay spoke about the Outreach Center for Teaching Ocean Science (OCTOS) building, a joint center to be co-located with the sanctuary's planned new building on UCSB's campus. Gay described the building and schedule and reported that they are still fundraising for OCTOS. She asked council members to talk with her if they have suggestions about individuals or corporations who may be interested in the project.

Council Member Announcements

A number of Council members shared announcements (unrelated to meeting agenda items). Audio recordings are available upon request.

Completion of Management Plan Revision Process

Mike Murray provided a summary presentation on the management plan. He described the revision and clearance process, and action plans. Mike provided a summary of each action plan, highlighting significant changes between draft and final. He also summarized some of the revised sanctuary regulations. Council member discussion focused on the revised discharge regulation, what it means, what the enforcement will be, and how outreach will be an important component of this regulation. Mike acknowledged that this is a challenge for boaters and encouraged the council to work on outreach ideas. The council also discussed boundary expansion. Chris explained that a boundary change was not made as part of the final management plan, but that it will be revisited when the budget allows adequate resources. There was also discussion about boundary expansions being proposed at other sanctuaries through Congressional legislation.

Public comment

Jessie Altstatt of Santa Barbara Channel Keeper displayed some photos of a new mooring configuration at Scorpion Anchorage, Santa Cruz Island, which is showing to be successful at keeping the chain from disturbing the eelgrass. Jessie also showed some eelgrass location maps that she is creating from mapping work she is doing at the islands and mainland.

Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)

Marija Vojkovich reported that at the last California Fish and Game Commission meeting a 5-year review of Channel Islands MPA monitoring was presented. Along with Fish and Game staff and Department partners, several scientists also provided presentations at that meeting. Regarding the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) Initiative, Marija explained that the Commission provided guidance to the southern California Regional Stakeholders Group (RSG) that the Channel Islands MPAs not being reconfigured, but be considered for the protection they provide as the rest of the region is evaluated. Marija also explained that the RSG is moving into the mapping phase, and that several map proposals would emerge from the process. Council discussion touched on the challenging nature of addressing (or not) water quality concerns within the MLPA Initiative's southern California process, and included mention that ocean acidification had also been raised as a concern. [More information on the MLPA process is online at <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa/>].

Election of Council Chair

Eric Kett was elected as council chair.

Presentation: Multicultural Education for Resource Issues Threatening Oceans (MERITO)

Rocio Lozano presented a summary of this multicultural education program, describing its mission, goals, program elements, target audiences, and accomplishments. Rocio explained how the program strategically identified its audience and goals and how they developed a plan to achieve those goals. By June 2009 they will have immersed 1,700 students in the MERITO Academy program. In 2008 the program received the prestigious silver medal award from the Department of Commerce.

Working Group Reports

Chairs of the Conservation Working Group, Sanctuary Education Team, Enforcement Working Group, and Research Activities Panel provided brief reports on recent group meetings.

The Ship Strike Subcommittee provided an extended report. Sean Hastings described the subcommittee's work in progress, including the documentation of case studies to share information from ship strike experiences on the east coast, at Glacier Bay, and in Hawaii. Sean also explained that Shiva Polefka from the Conservation Working Group will be developing a case study on the "green flag" program at the ports of LA/Long Beach. Additionally, Sean mentioned that the state's Ocean Protection Council had been expressing interest in this issue and our work, and that discussions are ongoing. Sean also reported that the ship strike prevention and emergency response plan continues to be edited and updated, and in the future will be posted on the web.

Chris Yates with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Office of Protected Resources provided an extended update of NMFS work on the issue. Chris provided a presentation showing ship strike statistics for the west coast of the US from the period of 1982-2008. Chris showed data on the 65 strike incidents of blue, gray, fin, humpback, and unidentified whales and illustrated how the strikes were grouped by year, region, species, and time of year. Fiedler et al. (1998) looked at blue whale densities in and around the Channel Islands, and Chris recommended this is as good background information for the issue here. Chris also mentioned that NMFS is meeting with shipping industry representatives to share information and ideas, including at a NMFS sponsored workshop to identify and assess technologies to reduce ship strikes of large whales in Providence Rhode Island in July 2008. Maria Petulei, reporting for the Sanctuary Education Team, explained that the group now has a list of shipping lines that most frequently use the Santa Barbara Channel, and with help from Dick McKenna a dialogue is being set up.

Unrelated to ship strikes, Chris Yates also provided an update about black abalone, which were recently listed as endangered under the Endangered Species Act. The next step will be to designate critical habitat, and NMFS will be seeking public comment and information on this issue.

Advisory Council Annual Work Plan

Mike Murray presented Council members with a list of staff suggestions for Advisory Council work activities in 2009. Council members contributed additional suggestions, and then ranked all of the work items to indicate if each should receive either a high, medium or low amount of Council effort and time this year. The resultant annual work plan is posted online here: http://www.channelislands.noaa.gov/sac/report_doc.html.

Renewal of Advisory Council Charter

Mike Murray presented a proposed revised Council Charter, explaining that the changes were minor and designed to provide updates to match the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries' model template charter. The revisions were unanimously supported. When the update process is complete, the new charter will be posted on the CINMS website.

Future Meeting Schedule

Consideration was given to possibly changing upcoming Council meeting dates to better accommodate state agency representatives that are currently experiencing schedule conflicts due to a work furlough situation. The Council opted to wait and see if the state's furlough situation continues much longer. Until further notice, the schedule remains:

- Friday March 20, 2009 (SAC meeting, Ventura)
- May 4-7, 2009: SAC Chairs annual meeting (Alpena, Michigan)
- Friday May 15, 2009 (SAC meeting, Santa Barbara)
- Friday July 17, 2009 (SAC meeting, Ventura)
- Friday September 18, 2009 (SAC meeting, Santa Barbara)
- Friday November 20, 2009 (SAC meeting, Ventura)

Meeting Attendance Roster (Jan. 23, 2009):

Kathleen Fitzgerald	Tourism	Present
Andrea Moe	Tourism - Alternate	Absent
Debra Herring	Non-Consumptive Recreation	Present
Perry Ferguson	Non-Consumptive Recreation - Alternate	Absent
Capt. Richard McKenna	Business	Present
Vacant	Business - Alternate	
Linda Krop	Conservation	Absent
Greg Helms	Conservation - Alternate	Present
Bruce Steele	Commercial Fishing	Present
Vacant	Commercial Fishing - Alternate	
Capt. David Bacon	Recreational Fishing	Present
Merit McCrea	Recreational Fishing - Alternate	Present
Maria Petueli	Education	Present
Jose Chicote	Education - Alternate	Absent
Dr. Robert Warner	Research	Present
Dr. Mark Steele	Research - Alternate	Present
Phyllis Grifman [Council Secretary]	Public At Large #1	Absent
Amy Spandrio	Public At Large #1 - Alternate	Absent
Eric Kett [Council Chair]	Public At Large #2	Present
Dan Powell	Public At Large #2 - Alternate	Absent
Jacy Ontiveros	Chumash Community	Absent
Alan Salazar	Chumash Community - Alternate	Absent
Peter Fischel	NOAA Fisheries	Absent
Elizabeth Petras	NOAA Fisheries - Alternate	Present
Russell Galipeau	National Park Service	Present
Vacant	National Park Service - Alternate	
CDR Jason Collins	US Coast Guard	Present
LTJG Brittany Steward	US Coast Guard – Alternate	Present
Dr. Fred Piltz	Minerals Management Service	Absent
Donna Schroeder	Minerals Management Service - Alternate	Absent
Steven Schwartz	Dept. of Defense	Present
Walt Schobel	Dept. of Defense - Alternate	Present
Marija Vojkovich	CA Dept. of Fish & Game	Present
John Ugoretz	CA Dept. of Fish & Game - Alternate	Absent
Brian Baird	CA Natural Resources Agency	Absent
Amy Boone	CA Natural Resources Agency - Alternate	Absent
Steve Hudson	CA Coastal Commission	Absent
Barbara Carey	CA Coastal Commission - Alternate	Absent
Dianne M. Black	Santa Barbara County	Present
Susan Curtis	Santa Barbara County - Alternate	Absent
Lyn Krieger	Ventura County	Absent
Marilyn Miller	Ventura County - Alternate	Present
Chris Mobley	Channel Islands NMS [non-voting]	Present
Paul Michel	Monterey Bay NMS [non-voting]	Absent
Karen Grimmer	Monterey Bay NMS - Alternate [non-voting]	Absent
Maria Brown	Gulf of the Farallones NMS [non-voting]	Absent
Brian Johnson	Gulf of the Farallones NMS [non-voting]	Absent